

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

**BATCHELOR et al.**

Atty. Ref.: **2558-73**

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For: **A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT**

**September 11, 2003**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination,  
please amend the application as follows:

**Amended Abstract** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4  
of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.